

The claims remain rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over EP 1203797, or as allegedly being unpatentable over EP 1203797 in view of Han-Adebukun et al or either of Pearlstine et al or Nichols et al. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

In Applicants' Amendment dated 23 December 2005, Applicants explained that the claimed ink composition of Examples 1 and 2 performed better than the ink composition of Comparative Example 3 (comprising C₄ diene instead of C₅ diene) in each of the evaluations for gas resistance, abrasion resistance and scratch resistance, as shown in Table 2 on page 29 of the specification. Applicants submitted that this evidence shows that (a) the number of carbon atoms in the recited diene is a result effective variable, and (b) the criticality of including the recited diene in the claimed ink composition. Indeed, Applicants submit that the evidence demonstrates that the claimed ink composition comprising the recited C₅ diene has advantageous properties as compared with an ink composition comprising a C₄ diene with the styrene (aromatic compound) present in the same (claimed) amount.

The Examiner has, however, contended that no significant difference between ink with an "A" rating and ink with a "B" rating is apparent. In this connection, the Examiner has stated, for example, that an "A" rating for gas resistance is described as $\Delta E^* < 10$, while a "B" rating is described as $10 \leq \Delta E^* < 20$, and the "A" rating could encompass inks with ΔE^* values such as 9, 9.5, 9.9, and the "B" rating could encompass inks with ΔE^* values such as 10, 10.05, 10.1. Accordingly, the Examiner contends that the evidence does not clearly show a difference.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's contention at least insofar as the evaluations for abrasion resistance and scratch resistance are concerned. These are visual evaluations for which ascertainable differences were registered (a) between "no color separation" and "very little color separation", and (b) between "no scratching of the recorded matter surface" and "recorded matter surface was scratched". These differences are qualitative and, respectfully, cannot be dismissed with the simple contention that they are not significant. Applicants respectfully submit that each of these differences, in and of itself, is significant and sufficient to show the result effective nature and criticality of the recited C₅ diene in the claimed ink composition and to rebut the alleged *prima facie* case of obviousness.

With respect to the other (nonvisual) evaluations in Table 2, Applicants submit the following raw data of light resistance and gas resistance. This data is included in a Declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 submitted herewith.

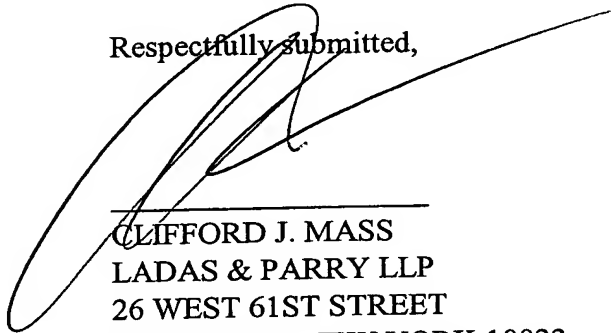
	Test 1 (light resistance)	Test 2 (gas resistance)
Ex. 1	92.5% (A)	7.5 (A)
Ex. 2	96.4% (A)	6.2 (A)
C.E. 1	93.7% (A)	16.4 (B)
C.E. 2	83.9% (B)	17.1 (B)
C.E. 3	91.3% (A)	13.3 (B)

As shown above, ΔE^* values of Example 1 and Example 2 are remarkably superior to that of Comparative Example 3 in each of the evaluations for light resistance and gas resistance. The results show that the difference between ink within the scope of the present claims and ink outside the scope of the present claims is significant. Since this could not have been expected

from the cited prior art references, it is respectfully submitted that the evidence of record is unexpected and sufficient to rebut any alleged case of *prima facie* obviousness set forth by the cited art.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all rejections and objections of record have been overcome and that the application is now in allowable form. An early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited and is believed to be fully warranted.

Respectfully submitted,



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